THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Security to SPG protectees, i.e., Prime Minister and his immediate family members and the former Prime Ministers and immediate members of their families, who are entitled to SPG protection for ten years from the date of demission of the office of Prime Minister, is being provided as per the provisions of the SPG Act as passed by Parliament. There is no proposal to make any changes in the arrangements at present.

Plights of Jawans

1119. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the Minster of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the plight of the jawans posted at the borders of the country in the Rann of Kutch zone;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps the Government are contemplating to mitigate their hardships?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government is aware of the various problems of drinking water, communication/electricity facilities etc. being faced by BSF personnel in view of difficult terrain in Rann of Kutch.

(c) Steps are being taken by the Government to provide drinking water through tankers, better communication/transport facilities to mitigate the hardship of the jawans posted in these areas.

The State Government of Rajasthan has also been requested to connect every BOP in the Rann of Kutch by water pipelines and also for provision of more water for tankers.

Espionage Activities

1120. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Police have recently arrested an officer and two other persons for passing on secret information to Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether one officer of Intelligence Bureau is also involved in the case; and

(c) the details of action taken by the Government in the matter so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Six persons (2 lower functionaries of IB, 3 Civilian Defence employees and a business man of Delhi) have been arrested.

(c) A case Crime No. 129/97 under Section 3, 9 of Official Secrets Act, 1923 read with 120-B IPC has been registered at Police Station Chanakyapuri, New Delhi.

Sick Sugar Mills in Kerala

1121. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugar mills in Kerala are sick and crippled;

(b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to revive those mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b) Under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, companies which become sick have to be referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). As on 30.6.1997 only one sick sugar mill viz. The Travancore Sugars & Chemicals Ltd. has been registered with the BIFR from the State of Kerala. The Change in Government policy and non-availability of raw-material were reported to be the main reasons which led to the sickness of the company.

(c) Sugar mills have to prepare schemes for rehabilitation/modernisation and get them approved by the financial institutions. Financial assistance is also available from the Sugar Development Fund (SDF) at concessional rates of interest for such rehabilitation/modernisation schemes with certain conditions. The case of Travancore Sugars & Chemicals Ltd. was last heard by the BIFR on 4.9.96, wherein Government of Kerala/Operating Agency were directed to submit rehabilitation scheme/status report.

Male Elephants

1122. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: